

# **EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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REMARKS BY

## **U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA AMERICA WEEK 2012 OPENING CEREMONY**

**BANGLADESH ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
JANUARY 31, 2012  
INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY BANGLADESH, CHITTAGONG**

Dr. Hasan Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor, Independent University Bangladesh, Chittagong

Dr. Rubina Khan, President, Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association

Honored dignitaries

Honored guests

Teachers, teachers of English ...

You are the great architects ...

You are the vital builders ...

You are the master craftsmen and women ...

You are helping to build the New Bangladesh, the Golden Bangladesh, the Bangladesh of ten or fifteen years that will be a middle income country with its economy woven into the global economic fabric, the Bangladesh that is the world's largest exporter of readymade garments, the world's largest exporter of household textiles, a huge player in global information technology, pharmaceutical and ship building markets, the Bangladesh that successfully taps international expertise to bring good security, good health, and hope for the future to the good citizens of this wondrous country.

This Bangladesh, this Bangladesh of prosperity, good health, stability, opportunity and optimism is no dream. I fervently believe that this Bangladesh could become a reality in my own lifetime ... and I'm already pretty old!

Of course, a key variable in this equation of a Golden Bangladesh is the nation's ability to tap the global marketplace for goods, services and, most especially, information, ideas and expertise.

And this is where you come in ... in a huge way.

English is the language of the global marketplace, and that is the gift that you give to each of your fortunate students. This gift is a key, a giant key, a huge key that unlocks the world of ideas and commerce.

This gift is priceless ... thanks to you and your dedication to strong, effective teaching of the English language, your students now can discover the world. What greater gift could you give?!

As your students unlock the world, they not only enrich themselves, they enrich Bangladesh; they make possible Bangladesh's engaging ever more deeply in the global marketplace of ideas and commerce. Your students now can continue their studies at virtually any of the world's greatest learning institutions, so each can bring more ideas and insights back to Bangladesh, insights and ideas that will make dreams of the Golden Bangladesh a reality.

You are indeed great architects, vital builders and master craftsmen and women; you indeed are key to building the New Bangladesh, the Golden Bangladesh, the Bangladesh of our dreams. I hope you are proud of your critical role in this enterprise.

I know that I am proud that my government is working to support you in your important work. We support the Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association and fund workshops and conferences such as this so you can further hone your English teaching skills; we send Bangladeshi English teachers to America for further training; we bring American experts here to exchange ideas and explore new approaches with you in the shared pursuit of teaching English more effectively. I am so pleased that we now have three experts here in Chittagong: William Wolf and Emily Tuberville, both here at IUB,C and Molly MacQuire, who is at Dr. Khastagir.

My wife Grace, a teacher herself, and I are both so pleased to be here today to open this session of the Chittagong Chapter of the Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association. BELTA is a treasured organization, one you have created to help you do your critical work even better.

I applaud you as you work to improve even further your skills in building the Golden Bangladesh. Your students are most lucky and your nation is indeed blessed by your service.

Thank you.

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**GR/ 2012**